

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 24, 2013
9 a.m., MHS Auditorium
Helena, Montana

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Steve Lozar, Crystal Wong Shors, Lee Rostad, Shirley Groff, John Lepley, Jim Murry, Sharon Lincoln, Jim Court, Kent Kleinkopf, Ed Smith, Bob Brown, B. Leslie Halligan, and Jim Utterback

MHS Board of Trustee members excused were: Janene Caywood, and Tom Nygard

Staff present: MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg; MHS Administrative Assistant, Renee Podell; MHS Development Officer, Susan Near; MHS Public Relations Manager, Tom Cook; MHS Membership Coordinator Rebecca Baumann, Research Center Program Manager, Molly Kruckenberg; MHS Museum Senior Curator of Collections, Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney; MHS State Historic Preservation Program Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS Centralized Services Program Administrator, Denise King.

Guests present (for a portion of the Board meeting): Helena Civic T. V., TVMT Specialist, Stephen Maly; Montana History Foundation Executive Director, Amy Sullivan; State of Montana Office of Architecture & Engineering, Russell Katherman and Tom O'Connell were also present.

CALL TO ORDER

President Steve Lozar called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Jack Lepley moved approval of the September 20, 2012 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Sharon Lincoln. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Leslie Halligan moved approval of the minutes from the November 7, 2012 telephone conference call meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Utterback and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Bob Brown

Bob reported that the sub-committee budget hearing went well with lots of questions being asked. Questions are a good sign of the committee member's interest. Discussion took place on the director's evaluation/review process and it was concluded that all Board members would participate in the process.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Steve Lozar

President Lozar noted that it is an active time with the Legislature in town. He thanked Board members for attending the budget hearing and for attending the reception for Legislators.

MONTANA HERITAGE TOUR SNEAK PREVIEW – Stephen Maly

Mr. Maly presented a preview of The Montana Heritage Tour, a six episode T.V. series featuring 18 small rural museums selected throughout Montana. He stated it is a privilege to use the equipment and to train MHS staff on the state-of-the-art equipment found in the Craney Studio. He will also be filming the Thursday night programs presented at MHS.

Bruce noted that HCTV is a great partner. Another contract was recently signed for another six months of recordings of MHS programs, at least four a month, which can be used for broadcasting statewide and MHS will have access to those videos for social media. As part of this partnership, staff will be trained so MHS can take over ownership of this equipment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Bruce Whittenberg

Bruce highlighted his written report to the Board. He showed videos of recent PSA's. Tom Cook helped TV MT stations work on the PSA's. Tom also has been extremely effective in getting the media to run stories across the state. Bruce stated that there is so much going on right now in marketing and development. The social media committee is very effective with the numbers going up each day of people the MHS are reaching.

The legislative budget process started with the first presentation on Friday, January 18th before the Education Subcommittee of Joint Appropriations. Bruce thanked the Board members that attended and he recognized the hard work of Denise King and Betty Anne Bergstrom for preparing all the necessary reports for the hearings. He asked Denise to give a quick rundown of what has happened so far in the hearings relating to the MHS. Denise said that a lot of time has been spent on present law but everything seems to be running smoothly. As of this date, there weren't any objections to the hiring request for a security guard supervisor position.

President Lozar announced that the State auditors gave the MHS a perfect audit with no exceptions. This is quite an accomplishment. He thanked staff, program managers and Denise King for the roles they played in the process. Bruce stated that the clean audit is a huge accomplishment. He noted that the auditors spent five months going over all the MHS records and found nothing to report. This means we are doing business right every day.

Bruce reported that \$2.6 million has been raised to date for the new Montana Heritage Center.

The Mulvaney Post Card Collection fundraising has been very successful. Final payment to Mr. Mulvaney must be made by December, 2013.

The fire and disaster alert system has been completely updated in the building. It has taken a year to accomplish this update due to the challenge of installing equipment over exhibits. The Department of Administration helped pay for this expense.

Bruce also reported that the loading dock in the back of the building has been replaced. This was a recommendation in the MHS security audit. Due to the unexpected high cost of replacement of the dock, The Department of Administration paid for this expense.

The Department of Commerce helped pay for the production of the new Montana Heritage Tour series.

Marketing and Development – Susan Near

Susan Near said there are many ways people can support the MHS. She explained that the recently mailed year-end appeal letter went out to all of the MHS membership giving donors a choice of support options. It has been a very successful appeal with 2/3 of the donors being from the State of Montana. It appears that giving donation designations is a popular way to appeal for support. She noted that two appeal letters a year are being anticipated for the coming years.

Susan further explained that another form of support she has been trying to showcase is memorial gifts. She will list names and information on honorees in the next newsletter. She encouraged the Board members to remind folks about this opportunity to remember loved ones.

Susan thanked the Trustees and staff that have given donation gifts for the Mulvaney Post Card Collection fundraiser.

Membership – Rebecca Baumann

Rebecca reported that the new membership number is securely over 2,000 members. She is continually looking at new ways to bring additional members into the fold. Bruce commented that discussions are taking place to add a level of business membership that doesn't exist currently. He is looking into what kind of benefits would be important to a business if they joined at a corporate level.

Ed Smith commented that getting *Montana The Magazine of Western History* into doctor's waiting rooms would be a wonderful way to familiarize the people with the MHS. Possibly this could help increase membership. He suggested that an invite to attend the next Board meeting, or one of the future meetings, could go out to the Directors of the Montana Medical Association, Hospital Association and the Dental Association.

Discussions took place on how to approach more Legislative members regarding becoming members and in getting them interested in visiting the museum. President Lozar asked Bruce and Rebecca to let the Board members know by email over the next month or two what would be

the most effective way to handle this concern. Bruce reminded everyone that there is a reception here at the Society on Monday evening for the Legislators.

PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORTS

MUSEUM PROGRAM- Motions on Loan Requests - Jennifer Bottomly-O'Looney

Jennifer thanked her staff for how professionally they were able to take down an exhibit and put up a new exhibit. She encouraged the Board members to stop by and see the Wedding Gown Exhibit. She asked Rowena Harrington and Sarah Nucci to give a show and tell for the Board members. They presented models of mites that had been donated by the Department of Livestock to the MHS. Rowena explained that Dr. Butler, Paris, France collected the models and held on to them for 35 years. Dr. Butler was the state veterinarian and he was studying how to eradicate mange in sheep. Vic Reimen showed a set trigger target rifle made in 1890 and gave a brief history of how it came into the museum collection in 1959.

Jennifer asked Sarah Nucci for an update on the haunted history tour held in October, 2012. Sarah reported that for the last two years the Original Governor's Mansion Board has held a walking tour as a fundraiser. It takes approximately 50 volunteers to put this tour on. The first year there were 500 tour goers and this year there were 350. \$8,000 has been raised for the OGM.

Jennifer introduced a letter and two loan requests from the C.M. Russell Museum. She explained that a letter was received from the C.M. Russell Museum Curator (handout made a part of the permanent part of the record) asking that the loan of the back bar of the Mint Saloon and the front bar of the Wickes Saloon, currently on display at the C.M. Russell Museum, be renewed for another five-year period. Discussion took place on the five-year renewal of this object. Jennifer explained that staff recommends renewal of the loan on an annual basis as long as all parties are acceptable. Lee Rostad commented that she is concerned that proper credit hasn't been given by the C.M. Museum that the MHS is the owner of the back bar and the front bar.

Lee Rostad moved approval of the C.M. Russell Museum's request for renewal of the loan on an annual basis of the Mint Saloon back bar and the Wickes Saloon front bar as recommended by staff. Lee asked that staff request that the MHS be given proper credit as the owner of the front and back bars in the display of these items on exhibit by the C.M. Russell Museum. The motion was seconded by Jim Murry and carried unanimously.

Jennifer submitted the second loan request from C.M. Russell Museum. The Museum is requesting to borrow the original watercolor painting by Charles M. Russell, dated 1926, and titled *When Cows Were Wild* from May, 2013 – September, 2013. Staff recommends approval with conditions as presented in the loan request checklist.

Ed Smith moved approval of the C.M. Russell Museum request to borrow the watercolor painting by Charles M. Russell, dated 1926, and titled *When Cows Were Wild* as recommended by staff. Jim Court asked that staff request that the MHS be given proper

credit as the owner of the watercolor painting while it is on exhibit by the C.M. Russell Museum. B. Leslie Halligan seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Motion to Approve Loan of Art Work in the Governor's Budget Conference Room

Jennifer presented a handout regarding the MHS Board of Trustees policy for loan of select art works from the Capitol Art Collection-amended January, 2009 (handout made a part of the permanent record). She noted that this is a request to maintain the present artwork in the Governor's budget conference room, which is outside the listed offices mentioned in the loan policy. She stated staff recommends extending the policy for another year.

Jim Murry moved to approve for one-year (until 2014) the selected pieces of art in the Governor's budget conference room. B. Leslie seconded the motion. Discussion took place on the growing list of art being loaned to various offices in the capitol. Jennifer explained that the policy limits the loan of art to ten pieces. Bob Brown stated it is appropriate to loan art according to the policy to the selected offices in the capitol. **The motion carried unanimously.**

President Lozar noted for the minutes that a Board discussion should be held each time there is an exception to the artwork loan policy. He commented that MHS isn't to be considered decorators of office area but keepers of the public trust for the people of the State of Montana.

RESEARCH CENTER-Motion-Molly Kruckenberg

Molly presented photos by an amateur photographer from Anaconda. The photos have been bound into portfolios. He uses black and white film and has taken photos of ghost towns and of buildings that are either about to fall down or to be torn down. One photo showed the kiln at the State Penitentiary in Deer Lodge. The kiln has now been torn down. The photographer wishes to donate the negatives to the MHS when he passes away.

Motion on January, 2013 Deaccession List

Molly asked that the Board take action on the January, 2013 Deaccession List (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Ed Smith moved approval of the January, 2013 Deaccession List. Jim Utterback seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE - Mark Baumler

The 2013 Biennial Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony program was given to each Board member (handout made a permanent part of the record). Mark reported that the ceremony was a great success with at least 130 people attending.

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert

Kirby asked Martha Kohl to discuss O & I activities. Martha spoke to the Board about the newly adopted State of Montana national standards for education called the common core. Common core teaches kids the primary sources and teachers must use these methods of learning. The

common core simply teaches kids to read and to look at multiple points of view. All of sudden teachers are really excited about the programs used here at the MHS. Martha stated lower grades have always used our collections but currently there are three high school teachers that have asked us to design projects using the MHS Research Center and Martha gave examples of model resource projects. Martha has the help of Zoe Ann Stoltz and Ellen Baumler in putting together wonderful learning projects.

B. Leslie Halligan suggested it would be good for the small museums throughout the state to help with learning projects. Perhaps the MHS staff could put out the message that donors are welcome to assist with resources in order to get learning projects into areas where small museums could help with this type of education. Molly said the word is out that staff will assist teachers in any way they can.

PUBLICATIONS - Molly Holz

Molly discussed the latest book “Mining Childhood”. It’s on sale now. She reported that the C. M. Russell book photography is completed and the manuscript is out for review.

CENTRAL SERVICES - Denise King

Denise presented the financial schedules for FY 2013 through September 30, 2012 and Fiscal Year 2013 through December 31, 2012 (handouts made a permanent part of the record). She also handed out a copy of HB No. 14 (handout made a permanent part of the record). She commented that the museum store is rebounding and she thanked everyone for their support. A copy of Financial-Compliance Audit for the MHS for the two fiscal years ended June 30, 2012 was distributed by Denise (handout made a permanent part of the record).

Denise reported on the Legislative bills which could affect the MHS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Motion for Moving Expenses for the Director

President Lozar explained that an oversight seems to have taken place. In the past, moving expenses up to \$2,000 was given to the person selected as the MHS Director. The Executive Committee had discussed the matter of moving expenses for Bruce Whittenberg but action was not taken by the Board on this matter.

Motion: Jim Murry moved that the amount of \$2,000.00 be paid for moving expenses to Bruce Whittenberg. Sharon Lincoln seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MHS Director’s Job Review Discussion

Crystal Wong Shors explained that Bruce Whittenberg suggested that the Board have a conversation rather than having a report card type of evaluation. Bruce has offered to share with the Board a document he has prepared which tracks his accomplishments against the mission of the MHS and the vision he and his team have worked on. The Board can then weigh in on his thoughts. Crystal stated that when Bruce came here he hit the ground running and there hasn’t been time to make sure we are all going in the same direction. She questioned if email was a

good way to handle getting input from everyone and the consent of the Board was that email would be fine. Crystal asked that responses be sent to her. She will gather the info and then the Board can have a conversation with Bruce perhaps in April. President Lozar stated that the Board wants to have a conversation that will give feedback that Bruce can use over the next year.

Ed Smith noted that this is an exempt position that serves at the pleasure of the Board and all members need to participate in the conversation with the Director.

B. Leslie Halligan suggested having a document drawn up as a record of Bruce's goals and accomplishments. She discussed establishing a template for the goals that the Board would like to see for the Director.

NEW BUSINESS - Motion

Kent Kleinkopf stated that he would like a show of appreciation made for the Departments of Administration and Commerce and suggested that a letter be written of thanks for their help getting needed services made to the building and to the loading dock at the MHS.

Ed Smith moved that a letter be written from the Board of Trustees to the Director of the Department of Commerce and to the Director of the Department of Administration and signed by Bruce Whittenberg and President Lozar. Bob Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

House Bill No. 14

Russell Katherman and Tom O'Connell from the Department of Administration gave a brief overview of HB 14 and explained that it will take a 2/3 vote majority to pass this bill.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEXT MEETING – April 18, 2013

Executive Committee – 8:00 a.m.

Board Meeting – 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

1:30 p.m.